

NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM

* 57295 *

IC CONTROL NUMBER

TO D/DIR		EXREG CONTROL NI	ACTION		EXREG SUSPENSE
THRU D/DIR EA <i>mm</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL		KCC SUSPENSE
SUBJECT Response to Dr. Hamilton's 17 May Request to Confirm Receipt of his 17 April Letter Re: VENONA Info			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE		ELEMENT SUSPENSE
			<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION		
DISTRIBUTION EXREG					
SUMMARY					

PURPOSE: To confirm that Dr. Hamilton's request for additional information on VENONA was received; the response was prepared by N5P on 15 May 1996.

RECOMMENDATION: Deputy Director sign the flag note.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

COORDINATION/APPROVAL					
OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE

ORG. D		PHONE (Secure) 963-3201s	DATE PREPARED 29 May 1996
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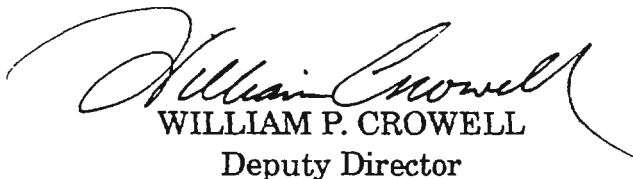


Deputy Director

31 May 1996

Dear Dr. Hamilton:

I did receive your April 17 letter requesting additional information about VENONA. My Deputy Director of Policy, Mr. James P. Cavanaugh, responded to your request in a letter dated 15 May 1996. If you have not received it, please advise and my staff will send you a copy.


WILLIAM P. CROWELL
Deputy Director

Dr. James W. Hamilton, M.D.



(b)(6)

April 17, 1996

(b)(6)

William P. Crowell
Deputy Director
National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6000

Dear Mr. Crowell:

I am writing to ask if you could let me know when exactly the Mar. 30, 1945 VENONA cable (#1822) referring to 'Ales' was actually broken into? Would it have been Aug. 8, 1969, the date at the bottom of the NSA document that was released last month, or did it occur much earlier, say between 1947 and 1952 when the bulk of the 1945 decryptions was done?

Also, are there any other cover names like 'Ales' in the VENONA traffic? In other words if Alger Hiss is this person, 'Ales' seems more like an acronym than a cryptonym and quite transparent whereas the names used to conceal identities of other Soviet spies in the material that has been made public so far do not seem to have such an obvious connection to the parties concerned.

In the Hiss exhibit at the Cryptological History museum, I understand there is a medal that Hiss is supposed to have gotten from the Soviets and I would appreciate it if you tell me the name of this award, how it was established that Hiss had received it and where and under what circumstances it had been given to him?

Thank you.
Sincerely,

James W. Hamilton, M.D.

May 17, 1996

Dear Mr. Crowell:

I am writing to ask if you had received the above letter and, if so, when I might expect to hear from you.

Sincerely,

